

DECLARATION OF ELIZABETH ANNE WILSON

1. My name is Elizabeth Anne Wilson. I am the Office Manager of the First Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale, located at 301 East Broward Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 33301. I reside at 441 NE 9th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 33301.

2. I have resided in the Miami area since 1954, and have lived in Fort Lauderdale since 1955. I am submitting this Declaration to provide the Federal Communications Commission with my testimony concerning the contribution to the community's welfare made by TV station WHFT-TV, Miami, during its last license term (February 1, 1987-February 1, 1992).

3. I have been attending First Baptist for over 25 years, and besides being the Church's Office Manager I also work with Single Adults who are divorced and widowed. For the last seven or eight years I have also done three Divorce Recovery Workshops each year. Over the years I have discovered that divorce and family break-up is one of the biggest problems in South Florida. Over 50 percent of the population is single adult. Our Divorce Recovery Workshop is an eight to ten week program which I run three times a year. From 50-70 people participate each session. While my church supports this ministry, we advertise the beginning of the workshops on radio and television stations, and send flyers to social service agencies and counseling services. These workshops are open to anyone who wishes to participate. All you need to bring is a sense of hurt, and a desire to receive the help offered.

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7

4. During the workshop I deal with the emotional traumas that people go through during a divorce, try to build up the person's self-image, and deal with the emotional baggage that comes with a divorce--the anger, low self-esteem, depression and sense of failure. In addition to the adult segment of the program, we offer a program for the 5 to 12 year old children of parents who are involved in my workshop. The children often hurt a great deal more than their parents, and these gentle classes help the children express their sense of hurt and come to grips with the fact that mom and dad are hurting too. Children are also helped to come to the realization that mom and dad are struggling and hurting and find it more difficult to be as available to them as they would like to be.

5. During the license term I appeared on WHFT on four or five occasions. I appeared on "Feedback" once, as part of a panel discussion on family issues, and I appeared on "Praise the Lord-South Florida" at least three different times, in January and September, 1990, and September, 1991. Each time I appeared on "Praise the Lord-South Florida" I was interviewed by the host and hostess for roughly 30 minutes, which gave me plenty of opportunity to describe our ministry and the sorts of problems and difficulties that the newly divorced and widowed experience. During the program our name and number was intermittently flashed across the screen. Each time I appeared on the program I received a response of as many as 10 calls from people who wanted help, or wanted information about the program for someone they knew who needed help. The

station would, on occasion, replay the program at a later time, and I would receive calls from people seeking help after these shows too. I particularly appreciated the opportunity to appear on WHFT because we are dependent on others to get our message out to those who need our help, and no other television station in the area has shown as much interest in family issues. I have never appeared on a Miami area television station other than WHFT.

6. Because of my personal interest in the subject, I watch the programming on other area stations which deal with family issues. Channel 45's programming is very different. Most other TV programs which deal with family issues aim at creating a controversy to spark viewer interest. By way of contrast, on channel 45 the show's host and hostess showed a real interest in my ministry, and were very positive, supportive and encouraging about what we did for people. Instead of emphasizing whatever controversy there might be about the subject of divorce (and there is certainly a theological controversy concerning the subject) WHFT's program emphasis was communicating to the audience that "you can get help here."

7. TBN has a reputation for helping those who are hurting and in need. In my Church and in my ministry, I run into a great many people who are hurting. Many have told me that watching channel 45 gives them encouragement and a lift. The station's caring attitude seems to come across in its programming, and its programming is happy, positive, and uplifting. The station's

programming communicates to viewers that "[t]here's help for you--
you don't have to hurt."

SUPPORTING DECLARATION

I, Elizabeth Anne Wilson, hereby declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Florida and the United States of America that the forgoing "Declaration of Elizabeth Anne Wilson," consisting of four (4) pages, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed this 4th day of August, 1993.

Elizabeth Anne Wilson
Elizabeth Anne Wilson

DECLARATION OF JAMES EDWARD WOODS

1. My name is James Edward Woods. I am the former pastor of the Issues of Life Ministry, located at 275 NE Prospect Road, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 33334. I reside at 2524 NW 37th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 33309.

2. I have lived the last 36 years in the Miami area. I am an African-American. I am submitting this Declaration to provide the Federal Communications Commission with my testimony concerning the contribution to the community's welfare made by TV station WHFT-TV, Miami, during the last license term (February 1, 1987-February 1, 1992).

3. Issues of Life started out as a street ministry, preaching the gospel and ministering to the down and out and the homeless on the streets of the community. We would provide food and clothing to the homeless and needy, and would try to funnel these people into churches or other community service organizations that can provide them with assistance on a more long-term basis.

4. I appeared on the "Praise the Lord--South Florida" program several times during the license term, in March, June and November, 1991. I was interviewed by a host about our ministry for over one half an hour each time. I was able to tell about our ministry and the needs that it served, and I was encouraged by the host to appeal to members of the viewing audience for help, help in terms of contributions of funds, furniture, clothing and other goods, and for volunteers. The response was gratifying. many people called to volunteer to distribute food and clothing, and we

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got many donations of food, chairs, tables and money. Channel 45 provided our ministry with its first public recognition, and I appreciated the opportunity for our ministry to become known.

5. Giving publicity to my ministry, and to other ministries helping people in the central city area, is serving an important public need. Knowing what programs and resources are available to provide help is vital in the inner city, and the homeless or the addicted are people who are usually isolated. They have no steady job, they are not part of a church or neighborhood, often they no longer have relationships with their family, for many reasons they don't want to interact with the government. Channel 45 showcases programs for the destitute and provides vital information about the resources in the community which can provide help.

6. I also believe that channel 45 is particularly valuable to the minority communities in the South Florida area. The station is responsive to minority needs, as shown by the program that I appeared on, and by its sponsorship of the His Hand Extended program to provide emergency food and clothing for the destitute. The station also seems to try to project an image that is reflective of the Body of Christ in the South Florida area. Hosts and guests on WHFT's programs are of every race and ethnic background. The guests on the shows, and the groups represented by the guests, reflect the racial and ethnic richness of the Body. The station is inclusive of everybody, and all races participate. That image is important, it gives us, African-Americans, a sense of belonging. It says to us that the station belongs to us, and that

this is our station. I think many people who watch channel 45 have a sense that they own the station, that its ours, and that the station invites community participation. This station is the one voice in the community that pulls the community together under one banner.

7. WHFT's programming is valuable because it really touches people's lives. One night a young man that I know was going through a rough time in his life. He was experiencing a hurtful divorce, and was depressed and discouraged. He turned the TV on early one morning and heard a preacher telling the story of Col. Sanders, and how he failed at practically everything he had ever done yet his took his first social security check and invested it in his chicken business. We all need to be touched, we all need hope, and this young man was touched by channel 45.

8. My children also receive a great deal by watching WHFT's programming. My children are now 13 and 14, but during the license term my daughter particularly enjoyed watching "Quigley Village," a program which uses puppets to teach children about letters and numbers. It also teaches children about how to deal with their problems, how to deal with emotions, and teaches good moral values. My daughter learned her numbers from that show. As they got older, both children enjoyed watching "The Gospel Bill," which involved more story-telling, which is helpful to children. It too emphasized good moral values, such as the value of truth, of not hurting other people's feelings, etc. All of WHFT's children's programming is excellent, and has been enjoyed by both my children.

SUPPORTING DECLARATION

I, James Edward Woods, hereby declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Florida and the United States of America that the forgoing "Declaration of James Edward Woods," consisting of three (3) pages, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed this 6th day of August, 1993.

By: James Edward Woods
James Edward Woods